

D-207
Grace P. E. Church, NR
Taylor's Island
1872-73
Private

Grace P. E. Church stands out as the oldest frame example of the Gothic Revival style in Dorchester County, and it is second only to its parish neighbor, the eighteenth century Flemish bond brick Trinity P. E. Church that was altered during the mid nineteenth century in Gothic Revival taste. Completed in 1873, the single-story rectangular frame church stands in a clearing on Taylor's Island, and adjacent to the relocated Taylor's Island Chapel-of-Ease (D-), a building that had served the Anglicans, and later Episcopalians, during the previous century.

The 1873 church was executed with distinct carpenter Gothic details, particularly in the construction of the gable roofed hood that shelters the double door entrance. A scissors-like truss of chamfered beams enhances the front of the hood, while intricately chamfered edge brackets support each side. Long, narrow, colored glass lancet windows pierce the wall surface above the entrance and along each side of the building. The uppermost section of the gable front elevation is defined by an unusual hexagonal window enriched with a star-shaped muntin pattern fitted with colored glass. The steeply pitched roof is surmounted by an open belfry and needle-like pyramidal roofed spire. On the side elevations tall brick stove chimneys, built with double paved shoulders and Gothic arched flue covers, rise against the exterior walls and pierce the extended eaves. The interior survives in a well preserved condition with a transverse entrance hall fronting the sanctuary. Distinguishing the east end of the sanctuary is a recessed chancel

enhanced by a round arched ceiling. Doth the sanctuary and the chancel are embellished with a bold plastered cornice.

The exact history of a chapel-of-ease on Taylor's Island for Dorchester Parish has been obscured by the passage of time, a lack of parish vestry minutes from the eighteenth century, and an inactive congregation at various times. Despite the lack of specific details on its earliest formation, parish records indicate that the chapel-of-ease was in place by the third quarter of the eighteenth century, and a single-story, 20' by 30' frame church was erected on the eastern edge of island at what is still known as Chapel Cove. The rectangular frame church was abandoned as a place of worship with the construction of Grace P. E. Church as the new site farther inland along Hoopers Neck Road. On the occasion of its consecration, Bishop Henry C. Lee performed services and later stated,

On the 18th of May I consecrated to the service of Almighty God a new building which bears the name Grace Church on Taylor's Island in Dorchester County. It is a handsome and substantial frame building, erected at a cost of \$3,500, and is a monument to the liberality and zeal of the few people enlisted in it. The people were happy to welcome at that service four of the clergy who had ministered in Dorchester Parish, Messrs. Stearns, Hall, and Bryan, besides Mr. Nott the present Rector.

Although weekly serviced were discontinued eventually at Grace Church, it has been used on a sporadic basis during warm months, and it is owned and maintained by the Grace Foundation of Taylor's Island, founded in 1952.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-207

1. Name of Property

(indicate preferred name)

historic

Grace P. E. Church

other

2. Location

street and number

Hoopers Neck Road

not for publication

city, town

Taylor's Island

vicinity

county

Dorchester

3. Owner of Property

(give names and mailing addresses of all owner)

name

Grace Foundation, Inc.

street and number

P. O. Box 119

telephone

city, town

Taylor's Island

state

MD

zip code

21669-0119

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dorchester County Clerk of Court

liber FJH 9

folio 35

city, town

Cambridge

tax map 58

tax parcel 53

tax ID number 059492

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☐ Other:

6. Classification

Category

- ☐ district
☒ building(s)
☐ structure
☐ site
☐ object

Ownership

- ☐ public
☒ private
☐ both

Current Function

- ☐ agriculture
☐ commerce/trade
☐ defense
☐ domestic
☐ education
☐ funerary
☐ government
☐ health care
☐ industry
☐ landscape
☐ recreation/culture
☒ religion
☐ social
☐ transportation
☐ work in progress
☐ unknown
☐ vacant/not in use
☐ other:

Resource Count

- | Contributing | Noncontributing |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <u>1</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> buildings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> sites |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> structures |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> objects |
| <u>1</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> Total |

Number of Contributing Resources
previously listed in the Inventory

7. Description

Inventory No. D-207

Condition

| | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> altered |

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

Grace P. E. Church is located on the east side of Hoopers Neck Road on Taylor's Island, Dorchester County, Maryland. The single-story, Gothic Revival frame structure, built in 1873, rests on brick piers, and it is covered with German siding. The rectangular frame church has a steeply pitched gable roof surmounted by a needle like pyramidal spire. The church faces southwest with the gable roof oriented on a northeast/southwest axis. The interior remains largely intact with a front cross hall, sanctuary, vestment room and storage room. Joining the church on the site are several hundred tombstones. Standing south of Grace Church is the former Taylor's Island Chapel-of-Ease for Dorchester Parish, a single-story frame structure relocated to this site from its original location where the Taylor's Island fire department stands. (See D-796). Also on the property is the old James Island Schoolhouse, a single-story one-room plan building moved to this location as well in an effort to preserve it. (See D-797)

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Grace P. E. Church stands in a small clearing among a mature stand of hardwood and pines on Hoopers Neck Road on Taylor's Island, Dorchester County, Maryland. Dedicated in 1873, the single-story, rectangular frame church has a Gothic Revival inspired exterior and interior. A brick pier foundation supports the three-bay by five-bay frame church, which is clad with German style weatherboards and it is covered by a steeply pitched wood shingle roof. Extending from the top of the gable roof is a needle-like pyramidal spire with an open belfry. Attached to the back of the main sanctuary is a slightly shorter gable roofed apse.

The gable front principal elevation, which faces southwest, is a symmetrical façade with a center, double-door entrance sheltered by a Carpenter Gothic hood. Vertical, tongue-and-groove board doors retain Victorian lockset. The steeply pitched gable roof hood is supported by chamfered edge brackets on each side, and a scissors truss spans the space above the doorway and echoes the pointed arch of the double-door entrance. A wooden cross is fixed atop the gable roofed hood. To each side of the entrance are narrow rectangular colored glass windows. Fixed above the entrance is a pair of lancet style colored glass windows distinguished by pointed arches, and piercing the gable end is a hexagonal style colored glass window. The edge of the roof has an extended eave with small brackets fixed in the bottom corners.

The side elevations of the main block are largely alike with the walls pierced by a series of five evenly spaced pointed arch window openings filled with colored glass. Fixed between the third and fourth bays from the southwest corners are exterior brick chimney stack featuring paved shoulders at two levels and pointed arch flue covers.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-207

Name Grace P. E. Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 1

The rear wall of the sanctuary is largely covered by the steeply pitched gable roof apse, which has an pointed arch entrance on the southeast side. A tripartite grouping of three individual pointed arch colored glass windows mark the northeast gable end.

The interior is divided into two principal spaces; a front transverse hall, and the sanctuary. The front hall is a relatively plain room with a pointed arch double door entrance fitted with original doors built of diagonally placed tongue-and-groove beaded boards. The sanctuary is trimmed with vertical beaded board wainscoting and plaster walls that rise to a plastered cornice running along the length of the side walls. The sanctuary ceiling follows a shallower gable form than the exterior roof shape. The altar is accented by a low turned baluster railing. The apse recess is distinguished by a round arch that springs from plaster cornices. Pointed arch doorways fitted with decorative beaded board doors opens into a small storage room to the left (north) of the altar and a small vestment room to the right (south). The end wall of the altar is dominated by the three pointed arch lancet window filled with colored glass.

Located around the perimeter of the church is a nineteenth and twentieth century cemetery that contains hundreds of headstones.

8. Significance

Inventory No. D-207

| Period | Areas of Significance | Check and justify below | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> economics | <input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine | <input type="checkbox"/> performing arts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology | <input type="checkbox"/> education | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999 | <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2000- | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage | <input type="checkbox"/> law | <input type="checkbox"/> science |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> literature | <input type="checkbox"/> social history |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning | | <input type="checkbox"/> maritime history | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation | | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> other: _____ |

Specific dates May 18, 1873 (Consecration)

Architect/Builder

Construction dates 1873

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

Grace P. E. Church stands out in Dorchester County as the oldest frame example of the Gothic Revival and second only to the Gothic modifications executed at nearby Trinity during the mid nineteenth century. Completed in 1873 and consecrated on May 18th, the single-story rectangular church stands in a clearing on Taylor's Island, and adjacent to the relocated Taylor's Island Chapel-of-Ease (D-) that had served Episcopalians since its construction in the previous century. The 1873 church was executed with distinct carpenter Gothic details, particularly in the construction of the gable roofed hood that sheltered the double door entrance. A scissors-like truss of chamfered beams enhances the front of the hood, while intricately crafted chamfered edge brackets support it on each side. Long, narrow colored glass lancet windows pierce the wall surface above the entrance and along each side. The uppermost section of the gable front elevation is defined by an unusual hexagonal window enriched with a star-shaped muntin pattern fitted with colored glass. The steeply pitched gable roof is surmounted by an open belfry and needle-like pyramidal spire. On the side elevations tall brick stove chimneys, built with double paved shoulders and Gothic arched flue covers, rise against the exterior walls and pierce the extended eaves. The interior survives in a well preserved state with a transverse entrance hall fronting the sanctuary. Distinguishing the east end of the sanctuary is a recessed chancel enhanced with a round arched ceiling. Both the sanctuary and chancel are embellished with a bold plastered cornice.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

The exact history of a chapel-of-ease for Dorchester Parish on Taylor's Island has been obscured by the passage of time and the lack of parish vestry minutes from the eighteenth century. Despite the lack of specific details on its earliest formation, parish records indicate that it was in place by the third quarter of the eighteenth century and a single-story 20' by 30' frame church was erected during its formative period. (See D-) Erected on the eastern side of the island at what is still known as Chapel Cove, the rectangular frame structure was abandoned as a place of worship with the construction of Grace P. E. Church at a new site farther inland along Hoopers Neck Road. On the occasion of its consecration, Bishop Henry C. Lee preformed a services and later stated,

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-207

Name Grace P. E. Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

On the 18th of May I consecrated to the service of Almighty God a new building which bears the name Grace Church on Taylor's Island in Dorchester Parish. It is a handsome and substantial frame building, erected at a cost of \$3,500, and is a monument to the liberality and zeal of the few people enlisted in it. The people were happy to welcome at that service four of the clergy who had ministered in Dorchester Parish, Messrs. Stearns, Hall, and Bryan, besides Mr. Nott the present Rector.¹

Although weekly services were discontinued at Grace P. E. Church, it has been used on sporadic basis during the warm months, and is owned and maintained by the Grace Foundation of Taylor's Island, founded in 1952.

¹ "A Brief History of Grace Church, Taylor's Island.", Dorchester Parish in the Diocese of Easton. n.d.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-207

Name Grace P. E. Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

Grace P. E. Church
Hoopers Neck Road
Taylor's Island, Dorchester County, Maryland

Map 58, Parcel 53

FJH 9/35

Thomas B. Travers

to

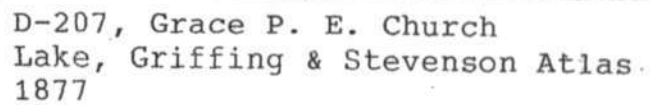
5.14.1873

The Vestry of Dorchester Parish

\$1 all that lot or parcel of land situated on Taylor's Island in
County aforesaid upon which a Church edifice has been
recently erected...

Dist. N^o 4
DORCHESTER CO.

DORCHESTER CO.



9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. D-207

Dorchester County Land Records, various volumes, Dorchester County Courthouse

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 113,256 square feet
Acreage of historical setting 1/2 acre
Quadrangle name Taylor's Island, MD

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The metes and bounds of this property are coincidental with the current boundary of the lot.

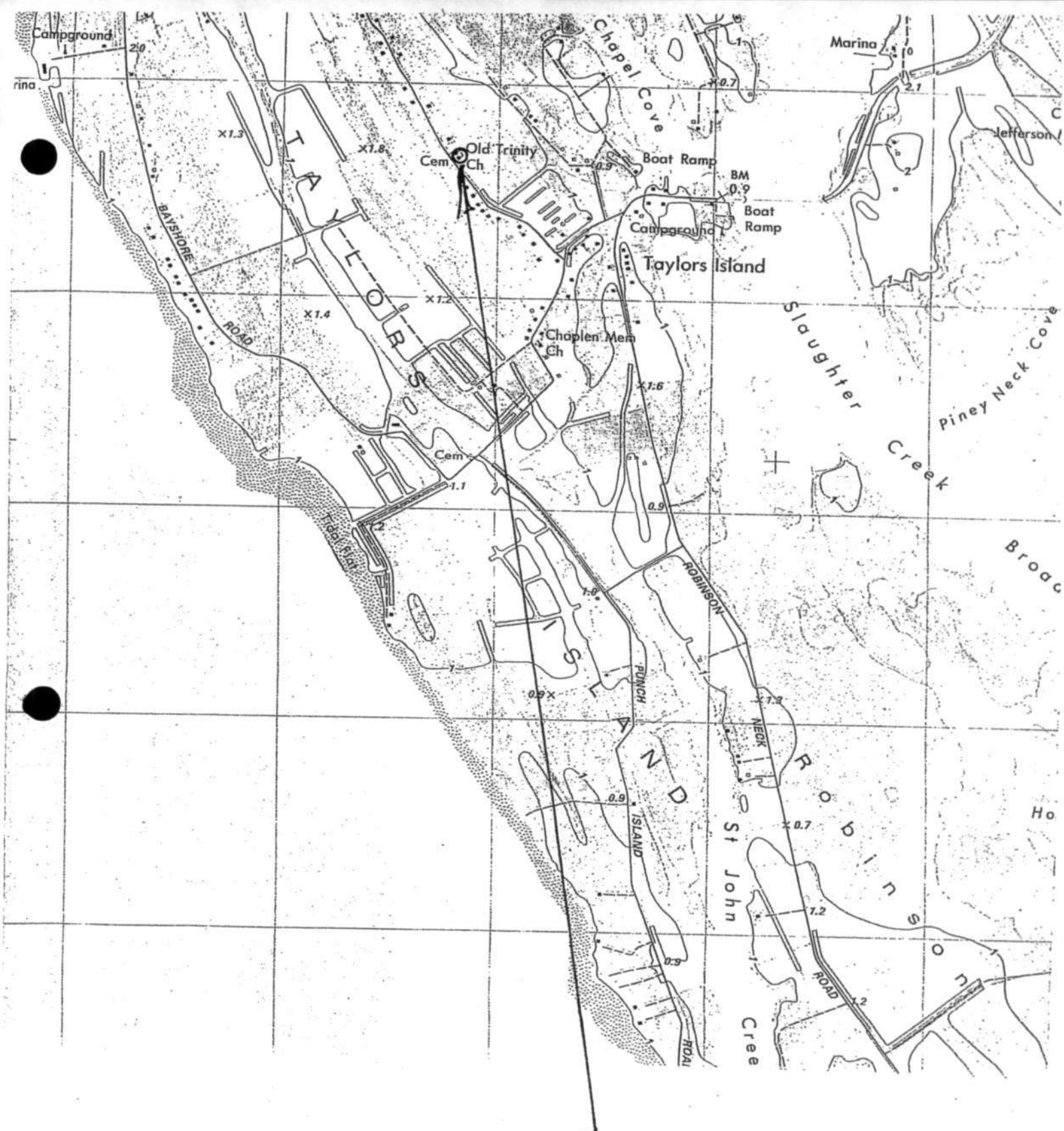
11. Form Prepared by

| | | | |
|-----------------|--|-----------|----------------|
| name/title | Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian | | |
| organization | Chesapeake Country Heritage & Preservation | date | 11/18/2010 |
| street & number | Cedar Hill, P. O. Box 5 | telephone | 410-651-1094 |
| city or town | Westover | state | Maryland 21871 |

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600



D-207, Grace P. E. Church
Taylor's Island Quadrangle



D-207

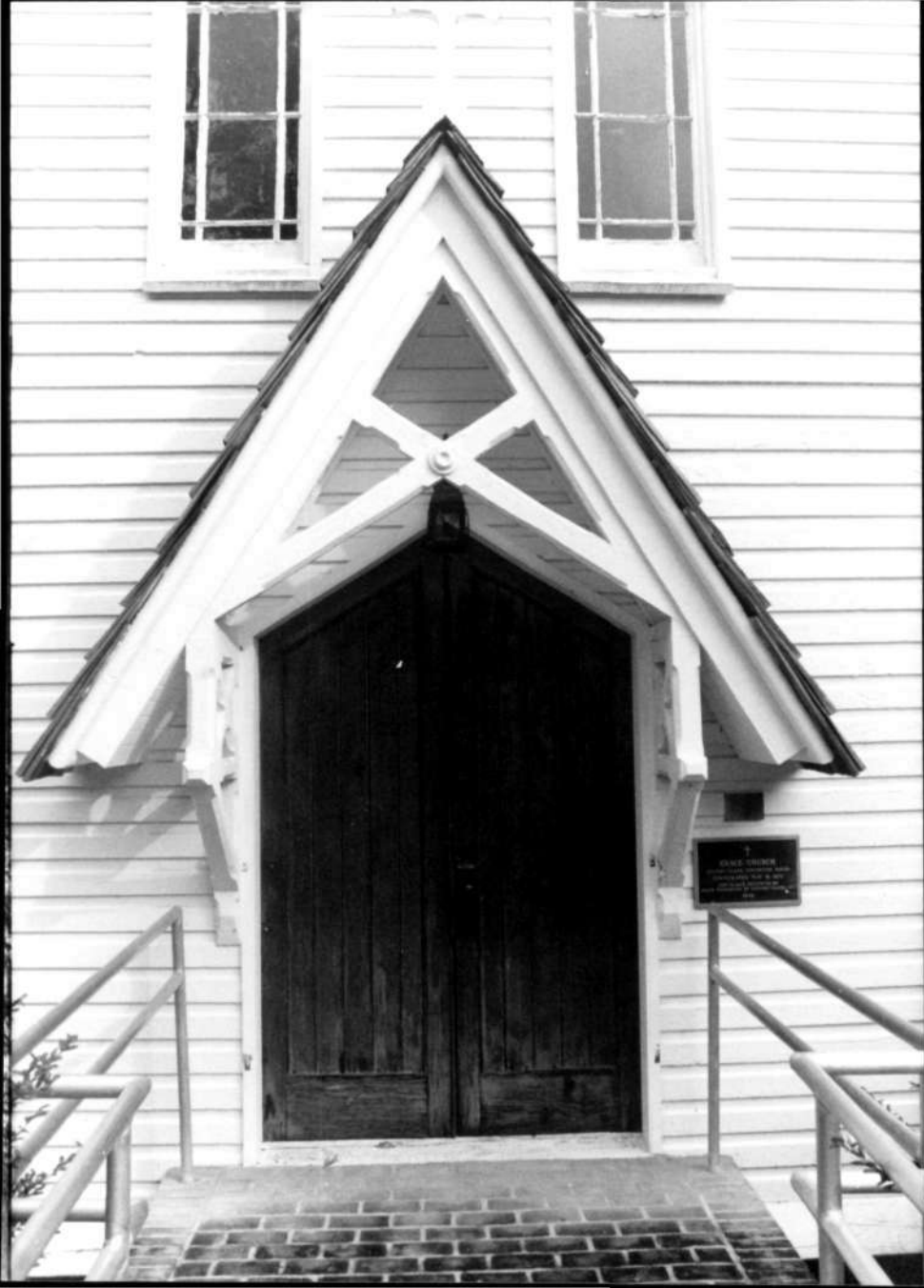
Grace P. B. Church
Taylor's Island,

PORCUPINE C., MD.
SOUTHERN ELEV.

9,2009, Paul B. Touant,
PITVTV.

NEG./MD. HIST. TRUSS

1 of 8



†
GAIL THOM
BORN [illegible]
DIED [illegible]
[illegible]

D-207

GRACE P. E. Church

Taylor's Island,

Dorchester Co. Md.

CARPENTER GUTHRIE HOOD

9. 2009, PAUL B. TOULAN,

PHOTOGRAPHER

WEL/M.D. HIST. TRUSS

2 of 8



D-207

GRACE P. E. CHURCH

TAYLOR'S ISLAND, DORCHESTER CO.,
MD.

SOUTHWEST ELEVATION

9. 2009, PAUL B. TOWANT, PHOTO.

WEL./MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

3 of 8



D-207

GRACE P. E. CHARCIT

TAYLOR'S ISLAND,

DORCHESTER Co. MD.

SOUTHWEST ELEV.

9. 2009, PAUL B. TOUANT,

PITTSBURGH

NEB. / MD HIST. TRUST.

4 of 8



D. 207

GRACE P. E. CARPENTER
TAYLOR'S ISLAND,

DORCHESTER Co. MA.
CARPENTER OPTIC
ENTRANCE 17500

9. 2009, PAUL B. TOWANT,
PHOTOGRAPHER
NEZ/MD. HIST. TRUST

5 of 8



D-207

GRACE P. E. CURRAN

TAYLOR'S ISLAND, DOVERHESTER C. W. W.
SANCTUARY - EAST WALK

9. 2009, PAUL B. TOWN, PAVON.
W. E. (M. D. H. S. T. Trust
6 of 8



D-207

GRACE P. E. CHURCH

TAYLOR'S ISLAND, DOCKHURSTON CO.
MD.

SANCTUARY - WEST WARE

9.2009, PAUL B. TOWNSEND, PAVON.

WEG. / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

7 of 8



D-207

GRACE P. E. CHURCH

TAYLOR'S ISLAND,

DORCHESTER Co. MA

ALTA

9.2009, PAUL B. TOURANT,

PHOTO.

NEB. / MD. / HIST. TRUSS

3 of 8

D-207

1820; 1890

Grace Protestant Episcopal Church,
The Chapel of Ease, and Mulberry Grove School
Taylors Island
Private; National Register

The Chapel of Ease is a frame structure measuring approximately 20 by 30 feet on brick piers. On the west gable is a single herringbone batten door. Two windows, with six-over-six sash, on each of the lateral sides light the interior. On the east gable end is a recently constructed chimney. The building appears to be used as a meeting room. Its interior is composed of a single room with balcony or choir loft above the entrance. The latter is accessible from a stair in the southwest corner and is supported by two posts with chamfered edges.

To the southwest of the chapel is a small building moved here from Mulberry Grove (D-23) on the other side of the island. This building was the first schoolhouse in Dorchester County. Restored by the Grace Foundation in 1959, it is now used as a display area and lavatory.

To the north of the chapel of ease is a more recent church. It is a frame structure built on brick piers in Victorian Gothic style, with a very steeply pitched gable roof. The door has a Welsh arch. There is a small open belfry supported on a pyramidal structure at the apex of the roof. Wind braces of the open belfry form Welsh arches, a repetition of the window motif. There is also a tall, narrow spire with a decorative wood shingle roof, at the pinnacle of which there is a wooden cross.

This forms one of the more attractive complexes of frame buildings in the county, and the church appears to have been the prototype for all the smaller chapels in the county which have Welsh-arch windows, e.g., Oak Grove (D-221).

D-207

(Rev.)
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Grace Episcopal Church and Chapel of Ease and Mulberry Grove School

AND/OR COMMON

Grace Episcopal Church complex

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER East side of Hooper Neck Road, .3 mile north
of the Post Office

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Taylor's Island

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Maryland

CODE

24

COUNTY

Dorchester

CODE

019

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT
☒ BUILDING(S)
☐ STRUCTURE
☐ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC
☐ PRIVATE
☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☐ OCCUPIED
☐ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
☐ YES: RESTRICTED
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Grace Foundation of Taylor's Island, Inc.

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Taylor's Island

VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland

21669

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Dorchester County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

High Street

CITY, TOWN

Cambridge

STATE

Maryland

21613

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

(Rev.)
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Grace Episcopal Church and Chapel of Ease and Mulberry Grove School

AND/OR COMMON

Grace Episcopal Church complex

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER East side of Hooper Neck Road, .3 mile north
of the Post Office

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Taylor's Island

VICINITY OF

First

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Maryland

24

Dorchester

019

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

☐ DISTRICT

☐ PUBLIC

☐ OCCUPIED

☐ AGRICULTURE

☐ MUSEUM

☒ BUILDING(S)

☐ PRIVATE

☐ UNOCCUPIED

☐ COMMERCIAL

☐ PARK

☐ STRUCTURE

☐ BOTH

☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

☐ EDUCATIONAL

☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

☐ SITE

☐ PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ ACCESSIBLE

☐ ENTERTAINMENT

☐ RELIGIOUS

☐ OBJECT

☐ IN PROCESS

☐ YES RESTRICTED

☐ GOVERNMENT

☐ SCIENTIFIC

☐ BEING CONSIDERED

☐ YES UNRESTRICTED

☐ INDUSTRIAL

☐ TRANSPORTATION

☐ NO

☐ MILITARY

☐ OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Grace Foundation of Taylor's Island, Inc.

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Taylor's Island

VICINITY OF

Maryland

21669

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Dorchester County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

High Street

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Cambridge

Maryland

21613

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

| CONDITION | | CHECK ONE | CHECK ONE |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT | <input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED | <input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD | <input type="checkbox"/> RUINS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAIR | <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED | | (School) |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

On this site on Taylor's Island are three frame structures: a schoolhouse, chapel of ease, and Grace Episcopal Church.

The chapel of ease is a frame structure, measuring approximately 20' x 30', on brick piers. It probably dates from the first quarter of the 19th century. On the west gable is a single herringbone batten door. Two windows, with 6/6 sash, on each of the lateral sides light the interior of the former chapel. On the east gable is a recently constructed chimney. The building is used as a meeting room.

Its interior is composed of a single room with balcony or choir loft above the entrance. The latter is accessible from a stair in the southwest corner and is supported on two posts with chamfered edges. Its floors are of wide pine, and the walls are plastered, with portions of posts and plaster exposed. The plaster ceiling follows the contour of the rafters and tie beams.

To the southwest of the chapel is a small building which was moved here from Mulberry Grove, on the other side of the Island. This building, as the plaque reads, was "The first school house in Dorchester County and was built and used on Taylor's Island. Given to the Grace Foundation 1955." It is now used as a display area and lavatory.

To the north of the chapel of ease is a more recent church, probably dating from the 3rd quarter of the 19th century. It is a frame structure built on brick piers in Victorian Gothic style, with very steeply pitched gable roof. The doorway has a Welsh arch, and both leaves of the door are composed of a single panel of vertical boards surrounded by stiles and rails. Flanking the door are two very narrow vertical windows. A pair of larger, similar windows is located above the canopy. Each of the four panes is surrounded by narrow strips of colored glass. At the apex of the gable is a hexagonal window with central Star of David in leaded glass. At the apex of the roof is a small open belfry supported on a pyramidal structure covered with wood shingles. The wind braces of the open belfry form Welsh arches, a repetition of the window motif. There is also a tall, narrow spire with decorative wood shingle roof, at the pinnacle of which is a wooden cross.

German siding covers the exterior walls of the structure at the base of which is a diagonal watershed board. Along the sides are five windows similar to those above the entrance. Between the third and fourth bays is a brick chimney with weatherings in two positions.

At the rear of the structure is a small section with single door on the south side. The back or gable of this is composed of two very small windows, similar to those flanking the entrance, and three larger windows, the center one being taller.

The building has a wide overhang and is completely boxed. Only at the corners are there brackets. At the juncture of the box cornice and the shingle is an unusual round molding.

Form No. 10-300a
(Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

Grace Episcopal Church complex
Dorchester County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 1

(DESCRIPTION, continued)

The interior consists of an entrance hall across the west end, a nave, and a chancel flanked by two small rooms at the east end. In the hall a small square opening is the only way to get to the steeple from inside the church. In the nave there is a center aisle with long banks of pews on either side. The chancel is a round-arched area recessed from the nave. The three windows over the altar and the side windows all have small pointed arches. The stained glass is opaque in the center with colored glass around the edges. Several kerosene fixtures remain along the side walls.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

| PERIOD | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> ART | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | |

SPECIFIC DATES Church - circa 1873
Chapel - circa 1820 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Grace Foundation has one of the more attractive complexes of frame buildings in Dorchester County. The chapel of ease dates from 1820 and the church from circa 1873. The latter seems to be the prototype of all the smaller chapels in the county which have Welsh arch windows (e.g., Oak Grove).

Dorchester Parish was laid out in 1693. Circa 1900 it consisted of Grace Church, Taylor's and Old Trinity Church, Church Creek. The Parish had financial problems throughout the 19th century, which are reflected in the vestry minutes.

In August 1818 a vestry was elected by the parishioners of Dorchester Parish. A month later the vestry agreed to repair the "Dorchester Church @ F. Creek." The bills for this work were recorded in September 1819. An undated entry in the minutes, with 1820 and 1819 entries before it and an 1821 entry after, gives a description of the chapel of ease:

In accordance with the resolution of the Last Convention Vestry of Dorchester Parrish in Dorchester county report that they have at Present there--parish a substantial Brick Church which has Lately been put into Comfortable repare & about two thirds of the pues have been rented out they have also a Small unfinished Chapell on Taylors island Made of Wood in Which a Congregation assembles they have no funds [?] or Glebe Lands the Revd G. Weller gives to there Churches as much time as he can speare from the Duties of G Choptank Parish of which he is rector & for which services he receives the rents of the pews CH? & also the advantage of a small subscription from the Congregation on Tisland . . . 1

This entry goes on to explain that the parish had been in a disorganized state for years, without regular services or a legal vestry and unrepresented at the Conventions. It is stated that all their money was needed to support the ministry and repair the churches.

An entry in the vestry minutes of May 9, 1868 reveals that the parish was once again disorganized. A public notice was posted and the members of the Protestant Episcopal Church in Dorchester Parish were invited to elect a vestry as there was none at that time. Eight members were elected and on May 20, 1872, ". . . the Rev. Mr. Nott was elected Rector of Dorchester Parish, to take charge October 1, 1872 at a salary of \$500 Composed as follows: from Church Creek from \$75 to a \$100. from Taylors Island \$200 to \$225. from the mission fund \$200."2

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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DATE ENTERED

Grace Episcopal Church complex
Dorchester County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland

ITEM NUMBER

8

PAGE

2

(SIGNIFICANCE, continued)

On May 18, 1873 an "informal meeting of the Vestry of Dorchester Parish [was] held at Grace Church, Taylor's Island." This is the first reference to Grace Church, by that name. At this meeting it was resolved unanimously to "petition the Convention of the Diocese of Easton for permission to organize the Congregation of Grace Church on Taylor's Island."³

The Vestry of Grace Church met on Sunday, October 19, 1873, with the Rt. Rev. Bishop Tay present, and adopted the following resolution:

Whereas we are notified to our painful regret of the determination of our beloved Rector to discontinue his Pastorate with us; therefore, be it, Resolved-1st That we adopt this means of Expressing our sincere friendship & heartfelt gratitude to him for his uniform & untiring zeal in the Cause of our Church, and for the unbounded Success with which his efforts to promote the Cause of Religion with us have been crowned⁴

Following the sequence of references from 1868 to 1873, it appears that Grace Church was constructed during this period. In 1868 there was a movement to organize the parish, and in 1872 Taylor's Island was assessed more towards the minister's upkeep than the congregation at Church Creek. All of this seems to lead up to some major interest in the Church on Taylor's Island.

In 1873 Grace Church was first mentioned, with a request to formally organize the congregation. Then later in October 1873 when the minister, presumably Mr. Nott, who was appointed in May 1872, decided to leave the vestry congratulated him for the "unbounded success with which his efforts . . . have been crowned." It seems logical then to believe that the church was built during Mr. Nott's term, between May 1872 and October 1873.

According to a "sketch of Dorchester Parish" in the front of a Parish Register dated 1877-1-37, Grace Church was consecrated in May 1873 by the Rt. Rev. H.C. Leay, Bishop of Easton. Whether or not this was the same visit described above is not certain but it does establish that the church was standing in 1873.⁵

The school now at this location was moved here from Mulberry Grove on the Chesapeake Bay side of Taylor's Island. This small frame building, originally containing only one room, is said to have been the first school built in the country.⁶

D-207

Form No. 10-300a
(Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Grace Episcopal Church complex
Dorchester County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 3

(SIGNIFICANCE, continued)

¹ Vestry minutes 1819 - 1860 (19962).

² Vestry minutes 1868-1892 (19963).

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Parish Register 1877-1937 (19961).

⁶ Plaque on the school building.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Grace Episcopal Church complex
Dorchester County :

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 4

ADDENDUM TO SIGNIFICANCE

Grace Episcopal Church is a carpenter Gothic structure typical of the small parish churches built in the United States in the second half of the 19th century. This particular example has a very steeply sloped roof and a bellcote with a tall steeple-like roof, giving it a grander appearance than other similar buildings (e.g., St. Paul's Church, Hillsboro, Caroline County, and St. Paul's Chapel, Crownsville, Anne Arundel County, Maryland).

The chapel of ease is significant as one of the few structures of its size and origin to survive. Its continued use as part of the church complex is also rare.

Dorchester Parish was one of the parishes of the Episcopal Church erected in Maryland in 1692-1693. These were the first parishes set up in the province. Dorchester Parish, of which Grace Church is a part, continues to be a separate parish.

The school building here is thought to be the first such constructed in Dorchester County. In any case, it is certainly one of the earliest, perhaps the earliest, surviving in the county to the present day.

HISTORY

The school located on the property has been moved twice. Originally located in a field by the road leading to James Island, it was moved to Mulberry Grove farm, and then to its present site. Believed to have been built circa 1785, it was purchased in 1855 by Traver Spicer of Mulberry Grove. In 1855 it was known as the "old schoolhouse". Spicer moved the building to his farm and used it as a smokehouse. When the Spicer family sold the farm in the 1950s, they wanted to preserve the school. In 1959 they donated it to the Grace Foundation for their use so the school would be accessible to the public. The exterior of the building remains basically intact, used for modern facilities.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

D-207

Records of Dorchester Parish in Dorchester County, Maryland.
(Diocese of Easton) at the Hall of Records, Annapolis.
Parish Register & Vestry minutes 1877-1937 (19961).
Vestry minutes 1819-1860 (19962).
Vestry minutes 1868-1892 (19963).

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET # 5

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 385810 4258670
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at a point on the east side of Hooper Neck Road .95 mile from the bridge to the mainland, following the road north 435 feet, then northeast 200 feet to a point, the southeast 435 feet to a point, then west 200 feet to the point of beginning, containing 2 acres.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |

11 FORM PREPARED BY

1 km

NAME / TITLE Pamela James, National Register Coordinator
Michael Bourne, Architectural Consultant, Elizabeth Jennes

ORGANIZATION Maryland Historical Trust DATE May 1975

STREET & NUMBER Shaw House, 21 State Circle TELEPHONE (301) 269-2438

CITY OR TOWN Annapolis STATE Maryland ZIP 21401

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

[Signature]

10-30-78

TITLE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

(11/78)

D-207

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Grace Episcopal Church complex
Dorchester County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 5

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES, continued

Telephone interview with Mrs. J. Stapleforte Neild, Ridgeton Farm, Taylor's Island, Maryland. Mrs. Neild is a descendant of Traver Spicer and her family has many of his papers. (Re: schoolhouse)

Skirven, Percy G. The First Parishes of the Province of Maryland. Baltimore: The Norman, Remington Co., 1923.

7 DESCRIPTION

| CONDITION | | CHECK ONE | CHECK ONE |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT | <input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED | <input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD | <input type="checkbox"/> RUINS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAIR | <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED | | (School) |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

On this site on Taylor's Island are three frame structures: a schoolhouse, chapel of ease, and Grace Episcopal Church.

The chapel of ease is a frame structure, measuring approximately 20' x 30', on brick piers. It probably dates from the first quarter of the 19th century. On the west gable is a single herringbone batten door. Two windows, with 6/6 sash, on each of the lateral sides light the interior of the former chapel. On the east gable is a recently constructed chimney. The building is used as a meeting room.

Its interior is composed of a single room with balcony or choir loft above the entrance. The latter is accessible from a stair in the southwest corner and is supported on two posts with chamfered edges. Its floors are of wide pine, and the walls are plastered, with portions of posts and plaster exposed. The plaster ceiling follows the contour of the rafters and tie beams.

To the southwest of the chapel is a small building which was moved here from Mulberry Grove, on the other side of the Island. This building, as the plaque reads, was "The first school house in Dorchester County and was built and used on Taylor's Island. Given to the Grace Foundation 1955." It is now used as a display area and lavatory.

To the north of the chapel of ease is a more recent church, probably dating from the 3rd quarter of the 19th century. It is a frame structure built on brick piers in Victorian Gothic style, with very steeply pitched gable roof. The doorway has a Welsh arch, and both leaves of the door are composed of a single panel of vertical boards surrounded by stiles and rails. Flanking the door are two very narrow vertical windows. A pair of larger, similar windows is located above the canopy. Each of the four panes is surrounded by narrow strips of colored glass. At the apex of the gable is a hexagonal window with central Star of David in leaded glass. At the apex of the roof is a small open belfry supported on a pyramidal structure covered with wood shingles. The wind braces of the open belfry form Welsh arches, a repetition of the window motif. There is also a tall, narrow spire with decorative wood shingle roof, at the pinnacle of which is a wooden cross.

German siding covers the exterior walls of the structure at the base of which is a diagonal watershed board. Along the sides are five windows similar to those above the entrance. Between the third and fourth bays is a brick chimney with weatherings in two positions.

At the rear of the structure is a small section with single door on the south side. The back or gable of this is composed of two very small windows, similar to those flanking the entrance, and three larger windows, the center one being taller.

The building has a wide overhang and is completely boxed. Only at the corners are there brackets. At the juncture of the box cornice and the shingle is an unusual round molding.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Records of Dorchester Parish in Dorchester County, Maryland.
 (Diocese of Easton) at the Hall of Records, Annapolis.
 Parish Register & Vestry minutes 1877-1937 (19961).
 Vestry minutes 1819-1860 (19962).
 Vestry minutes 1868-1892 (19963).

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATAACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2 acres

UTM REFERENCES

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |

11 FORM PREPARED BY

1 km

NAME / TITLE Pamela James, National Register Coordinator
Michael Bourne, Architectural Consultant, Elizabeth Jennes

ORGANIZATION Maryland Historical Trust DATE May 1975

STREET & NUMBER Shaw House, 21 State Circle TELEPHONE (301) 269-2438

CITY OR TOWN Annapolis STATE Maryland ZIP 21401

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
 ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM
for the
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

| | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|---|
| 1. NAME | | | | |
| COMMON: Grace Protestant Episcopal Church | | | | |
| AND/OR HISTORIC: | | | | |
| 2. LOCATION | | | | |
| STREET AND NUMBER: Hooper Neck Road, .3 mile north of the Post Office | | | | |
| CITY OR TOWN: Taylor's Island | | | | |
| STATE: Maryland | | COUNTY: Dorchester | | |
| 3. CLASSIFICATION | | | | |
| CATEGORY (Check One) | OWNERSHIP | | STATUS | ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC |
| <input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Buildings <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Both | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress | Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| PUBLIC ACQUISITION: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered | | | | |
| PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate) | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum | <input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ |
| 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY | | | | |
| OWNER'S NAME: Grace Foundation of Taylor's Island, Inc. | | | | |
| STREET AND NUMBER: | | | | |
| CITY OR TOWN: Taylor's Island | | STATE: Maryland | | 21669 |
| 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION | | | | |
| COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Dorchester County Courthouse | | | | |
| STREET AND NUMBER: High Street | | | | |
| CITY OR TOWN: Cambridge | | STATE: Maryland | | 21613 |
| Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #): | | | | |
| 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS | | | | |
| TITLE OF SURVEY: | | | | |
| DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local | | | | |
| DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: | | | | |
| STREET AND NUMBER: | | | | |
| CITY OR TOWN: | | STATE: | | |

7. DESCRIPTION

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|-----------|---|--|-------------------------------|---|---|------------------------------------|
| CONDITION | (Check One) | | | | | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good | <input type="checkbox"/> Fair | <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins | <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed |
| | (Check One) | | | (Check One) | | |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered | <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moved | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Chapel of Ease is a frame structure measuring approximately 20'x 30', on brick piers. On the west gable is a single herring bone batten door. Two windows, with 6/6 sash, on each of the lateral sides light the interior of the former chapel. On the east gable is a recently constructed chimney. The building appears to be used as a meeting room.

Its interior is composed of a single room with balcony or choir loft above the entrance. The latter is accessible from a stair in the southwest corner, and it is supported on two posts with champhered edges. Its floors are of wide pine, the walls plastered, with portions of posts and plaster exposed and the plaster ceiling follows the contour of the rafters and tie beams.

To the south west of the chapel is a small building which was removed from Mulberry Grove, on the other side of the Island. This building, as the plaque reads, was "The first school house in Dorchester County and was built and used on Taylor's Island. Given to the Grace Foundation by the Mulberry Grove Spicers. Restored by the Grace Foundation 1955." It is now used as a display area and lavatory.

To the north of the Chapel of Ease is a more recent church. It is a frame structure built on brick piers in Victorian Gothic style, with very steeply pitched "A" roof. The door has a Welsh arch and both leaves of the door are composed of a single panel of vertical boards around which are stiles and rails. Flanking the door are two very narrow vertical windows. A pair of the same form of window, but larger, is located above the canopy. Each of the four panes is surrounded by narrow strips of colored glass. At the apex of the gable is a hexagonal window with the center Star of David in leaded glass. At the apex of the roof is a small open belfry supported on a pyramidal structure covered with wood shingles. Wind braces of the open belfry form Welsh arches, a repetition of the window motif. There is also a tall narrow spire with decorative wood shingle roof, at the pinnacle of which is a wooden cross.

German siding covers the exterior walls of the structure at the base of which is a diagonal watershed board. Along the sides are five windows similar to those above the entrance. Between the third and fourth bays is a brick chimney with weatherings in two positions.

At the rear of the structure is a small portion with single door on the south side. The back or gable of this section is composed of two very small windows, similar to those flanking the entrance, and three larger windows, the center one being taller.

The building has a wide overhang and is completely boxed. Only at the corners are there brackets. At the juncture of the box cornice with the shingle is an unusual round molding.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian ☐ 16th Century ☐ 18th Century ☐ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century ☐ 17th Century ☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) Chapel - 1819

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Grace Foundation has one of the more attractive complex of frame buildings in the county. The Chapel of Ease was built in 1820 and the church appears to date from the 1890's. The church seems to be the prototype of all the smaller chapels in the county which have Welsh arch windows, e.g. Oak Grove.

Chapel of Ease

Old Trinity Episcopal Church, circa 1707

In the selection of the middle point between the Atlantic Ocean and the Chesapeake Bay, from the start of the Mason-Dixon Line survey this area was the center of a long controversy among British, Maryland, and Pennsylvania officials as to whether Taylor's Island was a part of the mainland or an island. An adverse discussion resulted in the loss of land to Pennsylvania, now Delaware. Plaque erected by Maryland Historical Society.

#7 DESCRIPTION (continued)

Surrounding this building between it and the Chapel of Ease is a cemetery with several of good stones dating from the 19th and 20th century. In the front yard are two large oak trees and across the road is a opening for the congregation to park.

There is plaque on the steps leading up to the main door which reads: "Given by Mary R. Bosley, in memory of her father, mother, and brother; Nicholas M., Emily A., and J. Hooper Bosley - 1924. Whether that pertains to the steps or something else, I don't know. There doesn't seem to be a date for the construction of the building, however, I will put it at the last decade of the 19th century. The earlier Chapel of Ease, probably dates from the first quarter of the 19th century.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Jones, Elias, The New Revised History of Dorchester
County, Tidewater Publishers, Cambridge, 1966.
Flower, Thomas A., Dorchester Tercentenary, 1969.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY | | | | O R | LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES | | | |
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| CORNER | LATITUDE | | | | LONGITUDE | | | |
| | Degrees | Minutes | Seconds | Degrees | Minutes | Seconds | | |
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| NE | 0 | ' | " | 0 | ' | " | | |
| SE | 0 | ' | " | 0 | ' | " | | |
| SW | 0 | ' | " | 0 | ' | " | | |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

Map 58, p.53

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

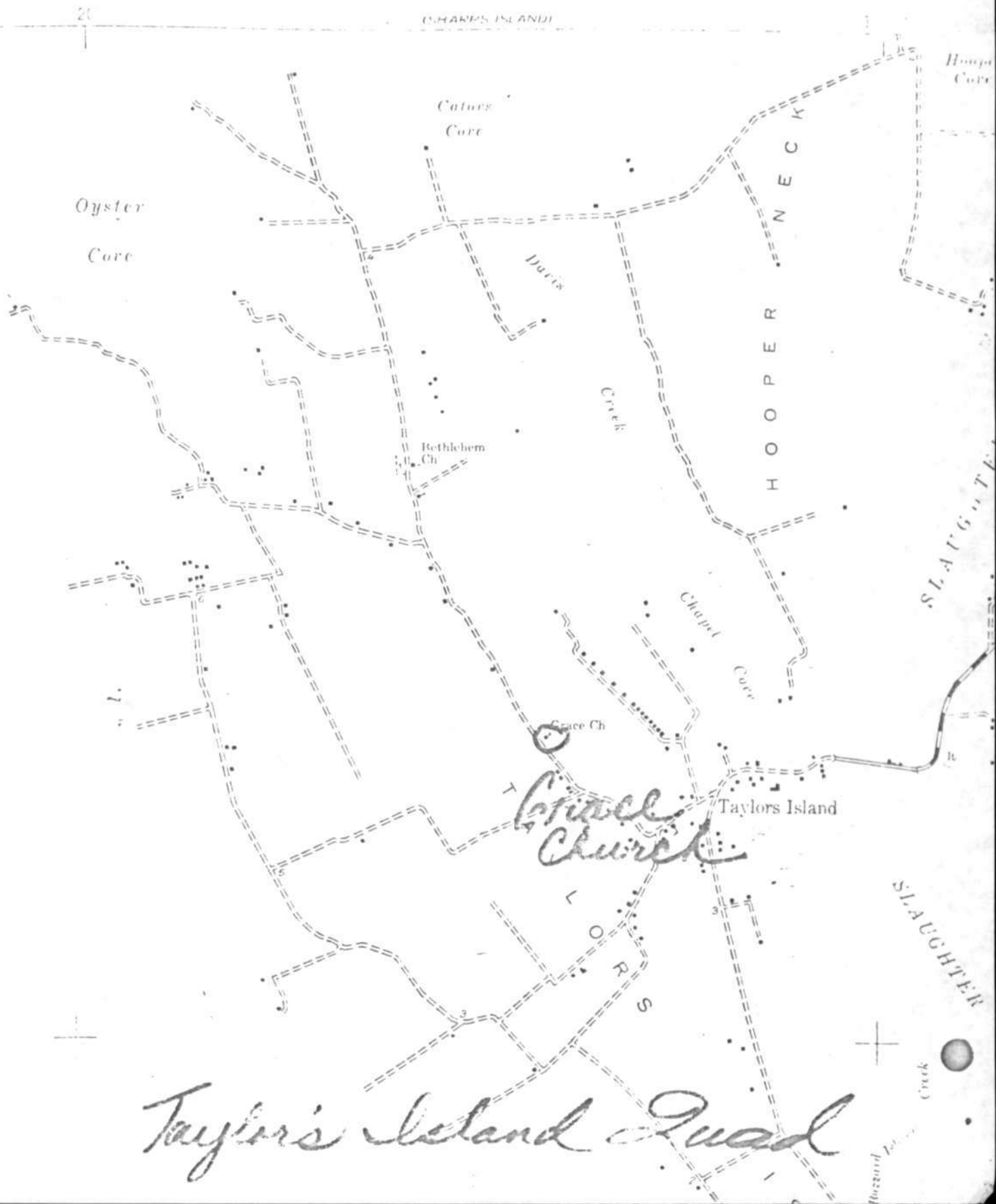
| | | |
|---|-------------------|------------------|
| NAME AND TITLE: Michael Bourne, Architectural Consultant | | |
| ORGANIZATION Maryland Historical Trust | | DATE May 1975 |
| STREET AND NUMBER: Shaw House, 21 State Circle | | |
| CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis | STATE Maryland | 21401 |

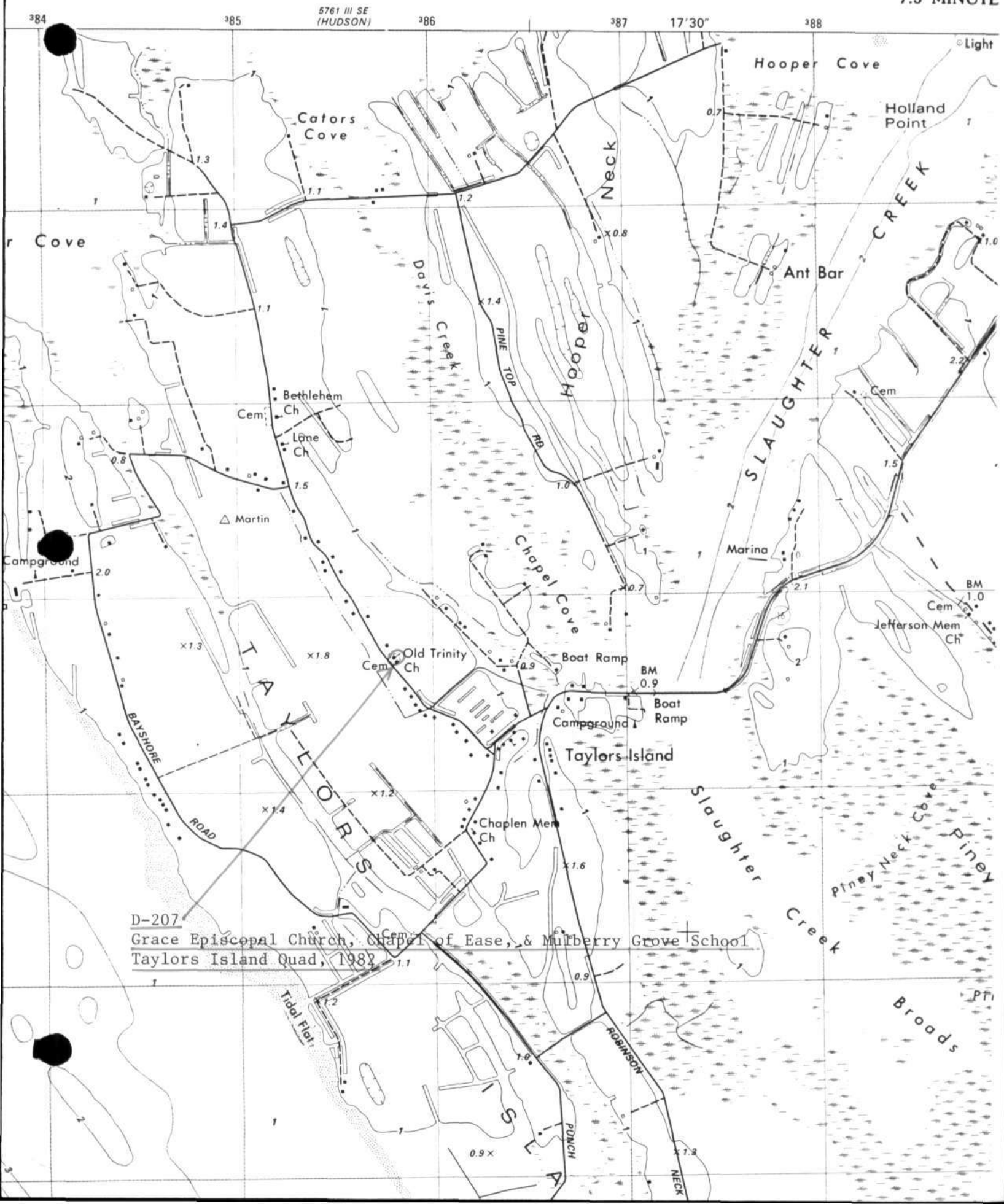
12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☒

Signature







Grace Protestant Episcopal Church

- 207

5/75

12x1-62

75%

D-207



Grace P.E. Church

D-207

M. Bourne Spring 1975

D-207



D-207



D-207

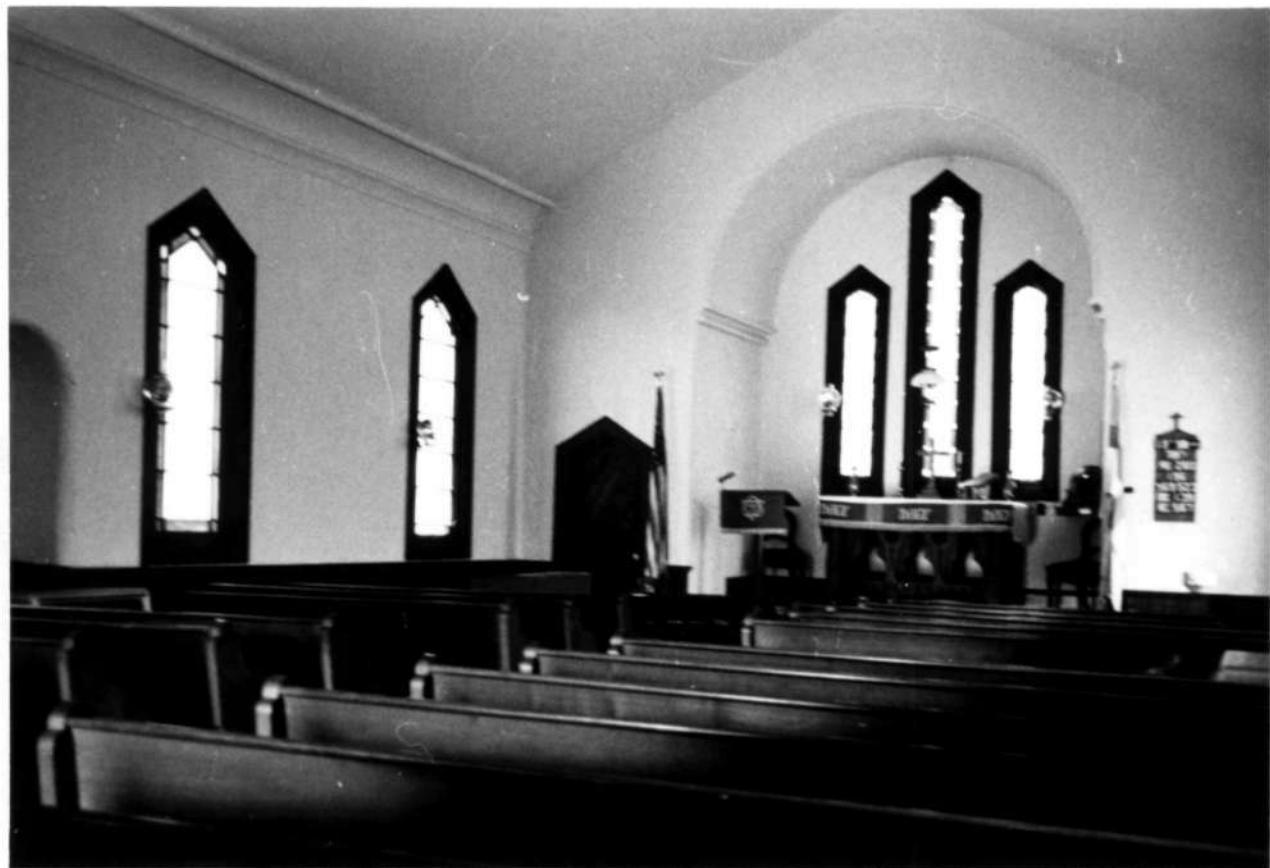
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